

CHARTER

Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee U.S. Geological Survey

1. **Official Designation:** Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC).
2. **Authority:** Public Law 106-503, Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000.
3. **Scope and Objectives:** The SESAC advises the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on matters relating to the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including its roles, goals, and objectives within that program, its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishing and measuring performance goals.
4. **Description of Duties:** The duties of the SESAC are solely advisory and are described in paragraph 3 above.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports:** The SESAC shall issue an annual report to the Director of the USGS for submission to Congress on or before September 30 of each year. The report shall describe SESAC activities and address policy issues or matters that affect the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.
6. **Support:** The USGS Earthquake Hazards Program will be responsible for administrative and technical support to the SESAC.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs:** Annual costs for the SESAC are estimated to be \$50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses. Staff support will require 0.2 of a full-time equivalent position. Annual operating costs for the SESAC are authorized at \$100,000.
8. **Designated Federal Officer (DFO):** The Senior Science Advisor for the USGS Earthquake and Geologic Hazards shall serve as the DFO in accordance with Sec. 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** Two to three meetings per year.
10. **Duration:** The SESAC is expected to continue into the future; therefore, it will exist on a "continuing" basis.
11. **Termination:** The SESAC will continue into the future and is subject to the provisions of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2 and shall take no action unless the Charter filing requirements of Sec. 9 of the FACA have been complied with. The SESAC is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the Charter is renewed in accordance with Sec. 14 of the FACA.
12. **Membership:** The Director of the USGS shall establish procedures for selection of individuals not employed by the Federal Government who are qualified in the seismic sciences and other appropriate fields and may, pursuant to such procedures, select up to 10 individuals, one of whom shall be designated Chairman, to serve on the SESAC. The Chair of the National

Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council shall serve ex officio. All SESAC members shall serve as Special Government Employees. Selection of individuals for the SESAC shall be based solely on established records of distinguished service, and the Director shall ensure a reasonable cross-section of views and expertise is represented. In selecting individuals to serve on the SESAC, the Director shall seek and give due consideration to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations. Solicitation of nominations will include the following societies and organizations: Geological Society of America, Seismological Society of America, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Geophysical Union, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. Term of membership may be staggered to ensure continuity in the procedures of the SESAC.

13. Subcommittees: The SESAC may have subcommittees or subgroups that the agency deems necessary for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such groups may not conduct business without the direction of the SESAC and must report in full to the SESAC.

14. Recordkeeping: Records of the SESAC and its subgroups shall be handled in accordance with applicable General Services Administration and USGS records filing and disposition requirements. Records shall be available for public inspection and copying.

15. Ethical Responsibilities: A SESAC or subgroup member may not participate in any specific party matter in which the member, his/her spouse, or dependent child(ren) have a direct financial interest, including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department of the Interior or the USGS.

Marcia McNutt
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Director, U.S. Geological Survey

April 20, 2012
Date Signed

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Date Filed